

applying electromagnetic energy to the material introduced to the first conductive material; and

layering a second conductive material over said first conductive material.

76. (Thrice Amended) A method of passivating a multilayer conductive structure, comprising:

layering a first conductive material;

introducing said first conductive material to a material selected from the group consisting of phosphine, methylsilane, and hexamethyldisilane;

applying electromagnetic energy to the material introduced to the first conductive material; and

layering a second conductive material over said first conductive material.

78. (Twice Amended) A method of passivating a multilayer conductive structure, comprising:

layering a first conductive material;

introducing the first conductive material to a material selected from the group consisting of phosphine, methylsilane, and hexamethyldisilane; and

layering a second conductive material over the first conductive material.

#### REMARKS

Claims 43, 44, 76, and 78 are currently pending in the present patent application, with claims 79 and 80 having been cancelled. In an Office Action mailed September 17, 2002, the Examiner finally rejected claims 43-44, 76, and 77-80 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,332,444 to George *et al.* ("George"). Claims 43 and 44 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,201,276 B1 to Agarwal *et al.* ("Agarwal").